



Myfuture CBC Revision

literature in english - Grade 10

Question Paper

1. Which device is often used in autobiographies to let readers hear conversations exactly as they happened?

- A. Direct speech using quotation marks
- B. Mathematical formulas
- C. Stage directions in a script format
- D. Imaginary dialogues with fictional characters only

2. Which oral form commonly uses metaphor and indirect language to hide the answer while entertaining listeners?

- A. Shopping list
- B. Scientific manual
- C. Historical chronicle
- D. Riddle

3. What is an appropriate way to begin a journal entry after returning from a school trip?

- A. Date, location, then a brief summary of the day's events and feelings
- B. Open with a long list of unrelated historical facts
- C. Start with a random poem from the internet without context
- D. Begin with a formal meeting agenda

4. Which part of an autobiography typically provides background information about the author's family, upbringing, and early influences?

- A. The glossary at the end
- B. The index
- C. The beginning or opening chapters
- D. The acknowledgements only

5. What is a frame story (a 'story within a story') and why might an anthology include such a piece?

- A. A story that only consists of a single sentence
- B. A story that places smaller tales inside a main narrative to provide context or multiple
- C. A story that cannot be translated
- D. A story that is always set in a classroom

6. How does audience participation shape oral song performances in Kenyan communities?

- A. It can prompt improvisation, change tempo, and influence the mood of the performance
- B. It discourages singers from changing the song
- C. It is forbidden by tradition
- D. It replaces the need for any musical instruments

7. I wish I _____ the novel before the exam.

- A. read
- B. have read
- C. reads
- D. had read

8. You have read the novel, _____?

- A. aren't you
- B. don't you
- C. didn't you
- D. haven't you

9. What is a refrain in a song or oral poem?

- A. An instrument used to accompany singing
- B. A repeated line or stanza that returns throughout the piece
- C. The title printed on the first page
- D. A single unique line that appears only once

10. Which editorial choice is part of creating a meaningful anthology?

- A. Printing each story in a different language without translation
- B. Including only stories with the same first sentence
- C. Choosing stories at random from any bookshop
- D. Selecting, ordering and sometimes annotating stories so they form a coherent

11. What is oral literature?

- A. Books and printed poems studied in school
- B. Legal documents written by elders
- C. Music recorded in a studio
- D. Stories, songs and poems passed down by word of mouth

12. Which grammatical device creates contrast by repeating a grammatical pattern, e.g., 'She came, she saw, she conquered'?

- A. Anaphora
- B. Metaphor
- C. Parallelism
- D. Allusion

13. Which poetic device is frequently used in oral poetry to create vivid pictures quickly?

- A. Statistical data tables
- B. Complex footnotes
- C. Legal jargon
- D. Metaphor and simile

14. How do you identify the tone of a short story passage?

- A. By examining the writer's choice of words, imagery and the narrator's attitude toward
- B. By measuring the length of each sentence
- C. By checking the page number of the passage
- D. By counting how many times the letter 'a' appears

15. Which of the following is NOT a typical element of an autobiography?

- A. Personal reflections on life events
- B. Chronological account of significant experiences
- C. A chapter written by a different author claiming to be the subject
- D. Discussion of lessons learned and growth

16. Which statement best captures a major difference between oral and written narratives?

- A. Oral narratives are always longer than written ones
- B. Oral narratives are fluid and can change with each telling; written narratives are fixed in text
- C. Written narratives always use call-and-response, while oral narratives never involve
- D. Written narratives do not use any literary devices

17. What name is commonly given to hereditary oral performers and historians in parts of Africa who preserve songs and genealogies?

- A. Administrators
- B. Griots
- C. Barbers
- D. Engineers

18. Which technique do autobiographers use to make their story engaging for readers?

- A. Writing only in academic, impersonal language
- B. Strictly listing dates and statistics without scenes
- C. Vivid scenes, dialogue, and sensory details from memory
- D. Removing all emotional content to be neutral

19. Which tense is most commonly used in autobiographies when recounting past events?

- A. Future tense
- B. Zero conditional tense
- C. Past tense
- D. Present continuous tense

20. Which choice correctly identifies a famous Kenyan autobiography that students might study?

- A. Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
- B. The Lion King screenplay
- C. A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking
- D. Unbowed by Wangari Maathai

21. When a student in Nairobi writes about how a national event affected them personally, this journal entry best shows which feature?

- A. Scientific analysis with data
- B. Fictionalisation of characters
- C. Objective reporting of facts only
- D. Personal response and reflection

22. When a poet links short independent clauses without conjunctions (e.g., "I came, I saw, I left" but without the commas), what grammatical term describes this choice and what effect does it create?

- A. Polysyndeton — repeated use of conjunctions to slow the pace
- B. Subordination — using dependent clauses to add detail
- C. Nominalization — turning verbs into nouns to formalize language
- D. Asyndeton — omission of conjunctions for a brisk, forceful rhythm

23. What is a narrative 'hook' at the start of a short story?

- A. A chapter that lists characters' addresses
- B. A footnote explaining historical context
- C. An opening line or scene designed to grab the reader's attention and encourage them to
- D. A summary of the whole plot

24. What is the effect of using local language and cultural references in oral literature?

- A. It prevents anyone from understanding the story
- B. It strengthens audience connection and preserves cultural identity
- C. It makes the story irrelevant to local listeners
- D. It automatically makes the story false

25. Ngugi wa Thiong'o, together with his students, _____ reading a new Kenyan novel.

- A. have
- B. were
- C. are
- D. is

26. Which feature in oral narratives helps listeners remember long sequences of events?

- A. Extensive scientific jargon
- B. Including unrelated statistics in the story
- C. Long uninterrupted paragraphs with no repetition
- D. Use of rhythmic patterns, repetition and refrains

27. Which choice best explains why a poet might switch from present tense to past tense in a stanza?

- A. To follow strict rhyme rules only
- B. To make the poem unreadable
- C. To show a change in time or perspective
- D. Because past tense is grammatically incorrect in poetry

28. Which form of oral literature uses short, memorable sayings to teach lessons or express wisdom?

- A. Novels
- B. Epics
- C. Proverbs
- D. Dramas

29. Which of the following is an oral poetic form often used to tell long community histories?

- A. Personal diaries stored in archives
- B. Short printed pamphlets
- C. Legal statutes published in newspapers
- D. Epic or heroic narrative performed orally

30. Which of these elements often helps to give an autobiography structure?

- A. Only dialogue with no narration
- B. Random switching between unrelated topics
- C. Strict use of rhyming sentences
- D. Chronological order of events or thematic chapters

31. In poetry, which grammatical device clarifies which words belong together by using commas and conjunctions: 'My father, a farmer, works hard'?

- A. Punctuation and apposition
- B. Alliteration
- C. Rhyme scheme
- D. Caesura

32. What is a refrain in a song or oral poem?

- A. A type of cloth worn by singers
- B. A list of names at the end of a song
- C. A line or phrase repeated at intervals during the performance
- D. An instrument used to tune voices

33. Which sentence best shows an autobiographical voice?

- A. You must always obey the rules no matter what.
- B. He was taken to the market every Saturday by strangers.
- C. I remember walking to school through the long dust road with my sister.
- D. The committee decided the matter in a neutral tone.

34. Which technique helps oral poets remember long passages of poetry?

- A. Relying solely on written copies locked away
- B. Memorising random numbers unrelated to the poem
- C. Using different languages for each sentence
- D. Use of formulaic expressions, repeated structures and musical patterns

35. If an autobiography reconstructs conversations from the past, what should a careful reader remember?

- A. Reconstructed dialogues prove the book is fictional
- B. All reconstructed conversations are legally recorded transcripts
- C. Dialogues may be reconstructed from memory and might not be word-for-word
- D. The author must have videotaped every conversation

36. Which feature helps oral poetry survive across generations?

- A. Strictly private performances with no community involvement
- B. Patterns like repeated refrains, simple structures, and cultural references
- C. Exclusive use of rare personal names
- D. Use of modern slang that changes every year

37. Which tense is most commonly used in autobiographies when recounting past events?

- A. Past tense (I went, I saw)
- B. Imperative (Go, see)
- C. Future tense (I will go, I will see)
- D. Present continuous (I am going, I am seeing)

38. What role does the audience usually play in oral songs or poetry performances?

- A. They silently read the text on a page
- B. They often participate through responses, clapping, or singing along
- C. They judge the poem in writing after the show
- D. They are expected to write down every verse

39. What is the best definition of oral poetry (songs) in the context of Kenyan oral literature?

- A. A musical score without words used only for religious services
- B. A modern radio script read aloud on air
- C. Spoken or sung poetic performance transmitted by word of mouth across a
- D. A fixed written text composed by a single poet for publication

40. Which technique do oral poets use to keep audiences engaged during long performances?

- A. Reading long lists of dates without context
- B. Limiting the performance to one monotone chant
- C. Refusing to vary their voice or expression
- D. Changing tone, using rhetorical questions, inserting refrains and audience participation

41. Which literary device is commonly used in autobiographies to reflect on past events?

- A. Epic similes comparing heroes to gods
- B. Unrelated fictional subplots
- C. Pure stream-of-consciousness without context
- D. Reflection and retrospection (commentary on past experiences)

42. What does the term 'orature' refer to?

- A. A written novel in local language
- B. A formal law code
- C. A type of musical instrument
- D. The body of oral literature of a people

43. Which of the following is NOT usually included in a personal journal?

- A. Descriptions of events in the writer's life
- B. Personal feelings and reactions
- C. Reflections on what was learned
- D. Bibliographic citations for every opinion

44. When a poet leaves out conjunctions to create a clipped rhythm: 'Sun high, heat rising, children silent.' What is this technique called grammatically?

- A. Asyndeton
- B. Parenthesis
- C. Inversion
- D. Polysyndeton

45. Which of the following is a reason why autobiographies are valuable in the Kenyan classroom?

- A. They always avoid discussing Kenyan society
- B. They require no critical thinking to read
- C. They present only fictional Kenyan myths
- D. They offer personal perspectives on historical events and local culture

46. What is one educational use of oral songs in Kenyan schools when studying literature in English?

- A. To discourage any reference to local culture
- B. To teach students how to ignore rhythm and sound
- C. To replace English grammar instruction entirely
- D. To explore themes, imagery and performance techniques that connect language to culture

47. How do autobiographies serve historians and students studying recent Kenyan history?

- A. They replace all other historical documents
- B. They provide personal perspectives and first-hand accounts of events and social life
- C. They are only useful for learning grammar
- D. They always give complete and unbiased national histories

48. What is a soliloquy in a play?

- A. A short song performed by the chorus between scenes
- B. A stage prop used to show time of day
- C. A speech in which a character speaks their thoughts aloud when alone on stage
- D. A written note for the director only, not to be spoken

49. When comparing two stories in an anthology, which approach helps you write a clear comparison?

- A. Identify similarities and differences in theme, character development, setting and style and
- B. Only describe the covers of the books
- C. Copy a plot summary from one story and paste it under the other
- D. Compare the number of pages only

50. Which of these is NOT typically a purpose of oral literature?

- A. To entertain listeners
- B. To preserve history and cultural identity
- C. To replace modern science textbooks
- D. To teach morals and social values